

ABSTRACT

HUMAN EMBRYOID BODY-DERIVED CELLS

5 The invention is directed to novel cells that are derived from human embryoid
bodies. Such embryoid body-derived (EBD) cells are relatively uncommitted or
progenitor (*e.g.*, pluripotent) cells. EBD cells, while not immortal, display long-term
proliferation in culture with a normal karyotype and can be cryopreserved and cloned.

 They can be efficiently transfected with retroviruses and lentivirus and genetically
10 manipulated. Although they have a developmentally broad multilineage expression
profile, they do not form tumors when injected into severe combined
immunodeficiency (SCID) mice. As a result, EBD cells have a variety of uses, for
example, in transplantation therapies.